



# Adult Education in La Paz County

Fiscal Year 2002

**A**dult Education is the delivery of literacy services to people 16 years of age and older who are not enrolled in a K-12 school. It includes:

- **Adult Basic Education:** instruction in reading, writing, and math to the 8<sup>th</sup> grade
- **Adult Secondary Education:** instruction in reading, writing, math, science and social studies; may lead to the attainment of an alternative high school diploma
- **English for Speakers of Other Languages**
- **Citizenship Test Preparation**

## The Need for Adult Education In La Paz County

In La Paz County, **4,992\*** out-of-school adults do not have a high school diploma or GED; **1,610\*** adults cannot communicate effectively in the English language. In Arizona, only providers who meet rigorous standards and produce positive student outcomes are funded. The **La Paz Career Center** is the program certified to provide adult education throughout La Paz County.

\*Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000; Federal Adult Literacy Estimates, 1996

Adult Education dollars allocated by the Arizona Department of Education to La Paz County in FY2002:

<b>Federal dollars:</b>	<b>\$43,500</b>
<b>State dollars:</b>	<b>\$43,400</b>

## La Paz County Adult Education Data for Fiscal Year 2002

- 128 adults enrolled in Adult Education classes
- 4,393 instructional hours were provided in Adult Education classes
- \$19.80 was the total cost per instructional hour for Adult Education
- \$679.69 was the total annual cost per Adult Education student (compared to over \$5,000 per K – 12 student)
- 36 of 95 students (38%) improved more than two grade levels
- 31 of 122 students (25%) who sought a GED obtained their high school equivalency diploma
- 5 of 5 students (100%) who sought a job found employment
- 24 of 29 students (83%) who sought to retain their job or improve their employment were successful
- 5 of 5 students (100%) who wanted to enter post-secondary education or training went on to further education

## GED Testing in La Paz County

### What is the GED and why is it important to our community?

The General Educational Development (GED) Test is a five-part, seven-hour exam in reading, writing, science, social studies, and mathematics. Across the nation, one-third of graduating seniors receiving traditional diplomas cannot pass the GED. Research has shown that compared to students with no diploma, students with a GED experience significant improvement in income level and are more likely to become involved in the educational experience of their children.

More than 15,000 students in Arizona take the **GED Test annually**. There is no Federal or State allocation to fund the processing of GED diplomas or transcripts. The cost of these vital unfunded mandates is taken from the adult education allocation.

### 31 High School Equivalency Diplomas were issued in La Paz County